'Mohar' voices against Deuki tradition

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Aug. 27

Nepali film 'Mohar' primarily raises its voice against the malpractice of Deuki. Produced by Chumban Jung Shahi, the film written and directed by Om Prateek, is set in old Nepal and revolves around unwritten rules and a love story.

The story starts depicting the parliamentary election of 2022 in Bajhang district. It portrays how the Deuki tradition is invoked both to safeguard the reputation of Sarkar Chand's influence and to fulfill his son's wishes. Actor Pal Shah, in the role of Shival, stands in opposition to this practice.

In the middle of the narrative, Pal Shah and actress Niti Shah's romance is shown in flashback. Pal's friendship with Benisha Hamal gradually transforms into a struggle against the Deuki system, which eventually blossoms into love.

Pal Shah, Arjun Jung Shahi, Benisha Hamal, and Niti Shah play the lead roles, while Mithila Sharma, Laxmi Giri, Rabindra Jha, and Sushil Devkota appear in supporting roles. Om Pratik's writing and direction, along with Suresh Adhikari's music, are of a fairly adequate level.

Giriraj Ghimire's cinematography is ok. Arjun Jung Shahi, Benisha Hamal, and Laxmi Giri deliver outstanding performances, while Pal Shah and Niti Shah are adequate. Rabindra Jha's double-meaning dialogues generate cheap humour, and such lines recur throughout the film.

The songs are melodious, and Pal Shah excels in dance sequences. Although the subject matter is realistic, the film itself is not a work of realism.

'Not to be used by AI'

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Aug. 27

Artificial intelligence has created a stir in the field of science and technology nowadays. By giving instructions to AI, it has now become possible to accelerate production processes without human labour.

Patrakaritama AI (Using AI in Journalism), a book penned by journalists duo Ajay Sharma and Shiva Puri, stresses that using artificial intelligence in journalism makes your job easier. On the other hand, the book also urged journalists not to be used by AI.

Essentially, AI has posed the danger of displacing the jobs of musicians, translators, proofreaders, editors and proposal writers.

While it has made the intellectual work easier, it is also rendering people lazy and devoid of creativity, since they no longer need to exercise their minds. With AI's assistance, tasks can be accomplished more easily, but it cannot be relied upon completely.

"Verification and finalisation by the concerned individual remain essential," the book notes. "If one becomes entirely dependent on AI, one must also bear the responsibility for any errors it produces."

The writers underline the relationship between journalism and technology. "However, the search for the truth, pro-people voice and essence of social responsibility should remain alive.

They should not be replaced at any rate," the writers profess in acknowledgement. "The AI is merely a tool for the journalists. They essentially take its aid to make their job easy."

The book contains eight chapters, each of which concludes with a summary. It not only outlines the advantages of AI but also highlights the risks associated with it.

Among the risks it mentions are the spread of false information, the absence of human sentiment and social values, threats to human employment, the possibility of biased information, and challenges to the preservation of mother tongues and local cultures.

The book also instructs journalists on which AI tools to use for particular tasks and how to use them. At the same time, it stresses that content produced with the aid of AI should be monitored and finalised only after thorough review.

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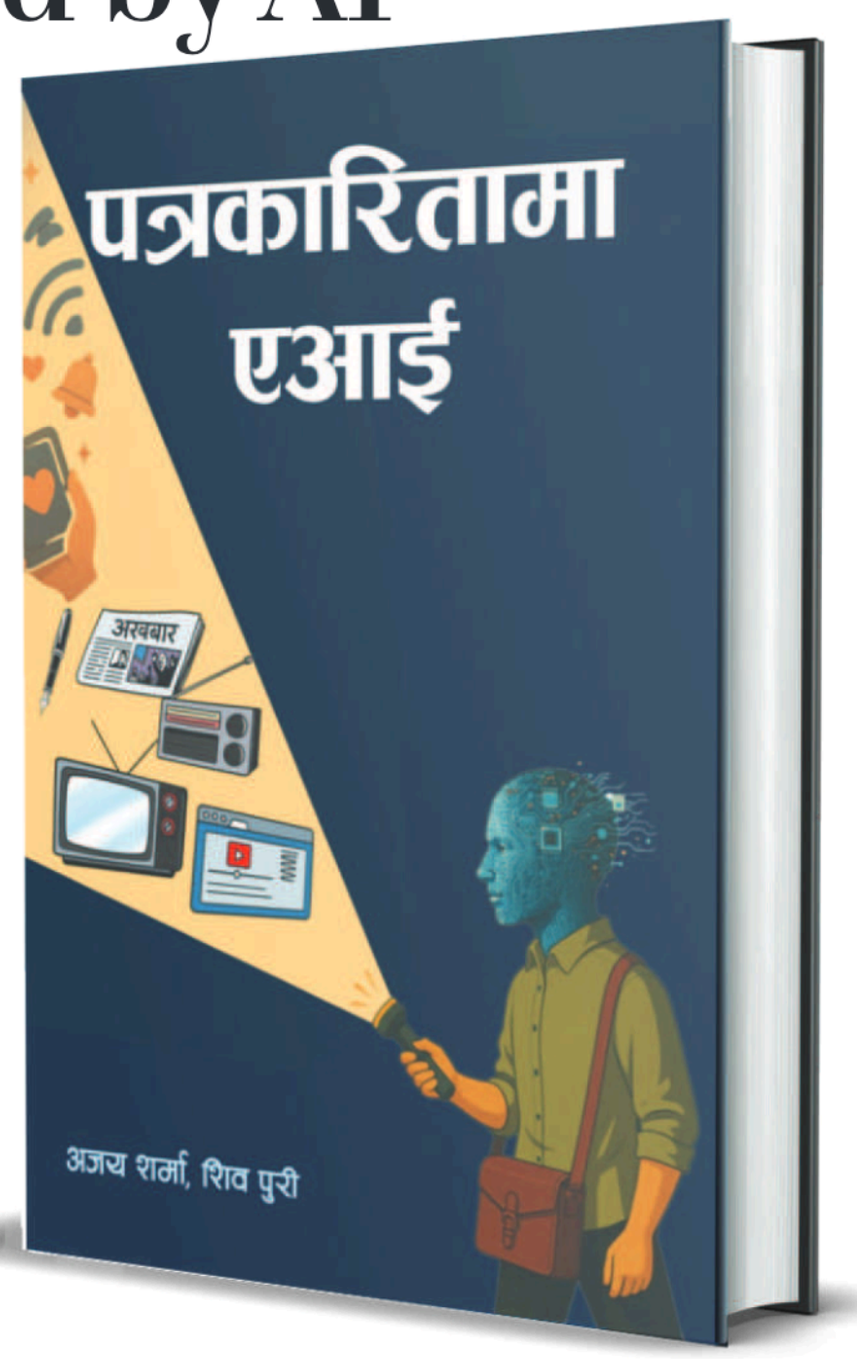
Published by the Bagmati Province Government, the book includes prefaces by Dr. Kundan Aryal and Dr. Devraj Aryal. Similarly, Rebati Prasad Sapkota, Registrar at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law of the Bagmati Province Government, has written the publisher's note.

Both Sharma and Puri hold Master's degrees in journalism. Sharma is a sub-editor at Gorkhapatra National Daily, while Puri is an audio-visual editor.



Perry seeks justice in long legal fight

AP
Los Angeles, Aug. 27

A lawyer asked Katy Perry on Tuesday whether she stood to gain money or anything else from a trial in a long legal fight over a California mansion.

"Justice" was the one-word answer from the singing superstar, former "American Idol" judge and recent astronaut, part of an hour of remote testimony she gave in a Los Angeles courtroom.

In her tense, careful testimony, Perry wouldn't concede directly that she stood to gain money if she won, but did say, "I stand to lose money if it doesn't work in my favour."

She spoke during the second trial in a dispute over a $15 million mansion in upscale Montecito near Santa Barbara that she and former partner Orlando Bloom bought in 2020.

The seller, 85-year-old Carl Westcott, said he was not mentally competent to make the deal and sued to undo it.

Perry's side — technically, the defendant was her business manager, Bernie Gudvi — prevailed in the first trial in 2023. Then Gudvi, representing Perry, countersued over lost rental income brought on by the legal fight and millions in maintenance the house allegedly required. That brought on the current sequel trial.

Westcott's lawyer, Andrew J. Thomas, often tried to steer the conversation toward Bloom.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Lipner ruled that the "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Lord of the Rings" actor does not have to testify because it would be redundant and unnecessary, even though the house is officially owned by a company he set up.

Asked if she had any role in a remodel of the house Bloom oversaw, Perry replied that she acted as "partner and adviser."

The couple, who split up in July, have a daughter together whose fifth birthday was Tuesday.

When asked about the nature of their partnership, Perry replied, "We're family for life."

Perry's attorney, Eric Rowen, objected to nearly every question by Thomas as irrelevant, including most of the queries about Bloom, which Lipner kept to a minimum.

Rowen objected especially angrily when Perry was asked if she knew that Westcott had entered a mental institution earlier in the legal fight, apparently suggesting the question was an attack for the sake of the media present.

"This is, I don't want to say unethical, but this is simply an effort to drive a narrative to parties outside this courtroom," Rowen said. The judge sustained his objection and the question was not allowed.

The judge and lawyers referred to Perry as "Miss Hudson." Her legal name is Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson.

She's currently in the middle of an international tour and has recently been tied to former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It wasn't clear where she was during Tuesday's questioning.

Thomas asked Perry repeatedly whether she had had enough cash on hand to buy the $15 million mansion outright.

Oscar applications open for Nepali films

BY A STAFF REPORTER
Kathmandu, Aug. 27

Applications have officially opened for the selection of Nepali films to participate in the 98th Academy Awards (Oscars), the most prestigious film awards of the world.

The Foreign Language Film Selection Committee, Nepal, has announced that it will recommend the country's best film for the International Feature Film category, provided it meets all the criteria set by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

According to the Academy, films publicly released between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, will be eligible for consideration.

The 98th Oscars will be held on March 15, 2026, while the deadline for submission of films from Nepal has been set for September 5, 2025.

The selection committee informed that films applying for the selection must submit a censor certificate along with proof of at least seven days of public screening, verified through advertisements or news coverage in the case of films already released.

If the film has been released on an OTT platform, the release certificate must also be provided.

Technical requirements include a 35mm or 70mm print, a video resolution between 2048 and 1080 pixels, and audio in either 5.1 or 7.1 format.

In addition, the applicants must submit a complete credit list including the director and producer, English subtitles, a short synopsis of the film, the director's filmography and photograph, three to five still images, and the official release poster in 600 dpi TIFF format.

The committee has encouraged Nepali filmmakers who meet these requirements to apply within the deadline to secure an opportunity to represent Nepal on the global stage.

HOROSCOPE

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ARIES: Venting to a close confidant about a peer group drama you're caught up in might be hard to resist. In return, you're likely to hear more than you'd prefer about your own role in the conflict, which is potentially clearer to an outside observer than it is to you.

TAURUS: You have a unique opportunity to guide your community through a long-standing debate. With the Moon in your practical 6th house, your real-world insight could bring clarity and help bridge deep divisions.

GEMINI: Finding a nice way to let your social network know what's up with you could be necessary. You've potentially been going through some changes that are a little rough!

CANCER: You might currently feel pressured to go along with an agreement that someone more powerful is presenting to you. Maybe you believe you don't have a right to an opinion because you don't yet have a solid sense of your long-term goals.

LEO: Stepping away from a fight that isn't going anywhere productive could be a wise move at the moment. Once you withdraw to a private place, you might be able to remember that there's much more to the world than you and whoever you're warring with.

VIRGO: As Uranus challenges Neptune, asking sharp questions can clear confusion. By reassessing shared responsibilities, you'll free up energy and resources. This shift empowers you to refocus on your personal goals and long-term purpose.

LIBRA: You may feel torn about a recent social invitation. Let finances guide your decision for now. Moving forward, reflect on whether this friend group truly fulfils your need for meaningful, intellectually stimulating connections and support.

SCORPIO: Setting limits with an obligation that has taken over your life may be necessary now. Although you might like the positive attention you receive for performing this duty, you have personal needs that should still matter.

SAGITTARIUS: Taking a break from a heated debate can help clarify your stance. With Uranus influencing relationships and Neptune clouding self-expression, it's okay to admit uncertainty or defer to someone with a clearer perspective.

CAPRICORN: Getting a reality check from your peers could help you make sense of a financial decision you're currently considering. Although you're not required to follow the crowd, you'd be wise to acknowledge what the norms are before you decide .

AQUARIUS: A conflict you're facing could soon become public. With the Moon in your 10th House clashing with Venus and Pluto, others may see through your opponent's facade, revealing truths that work in your favour.

PISCES: Going somewhere outside your usual routine could provide the reset you need today. Perhaps a toxic power dynamic surrounding some of your regular tasks has become entrenched.

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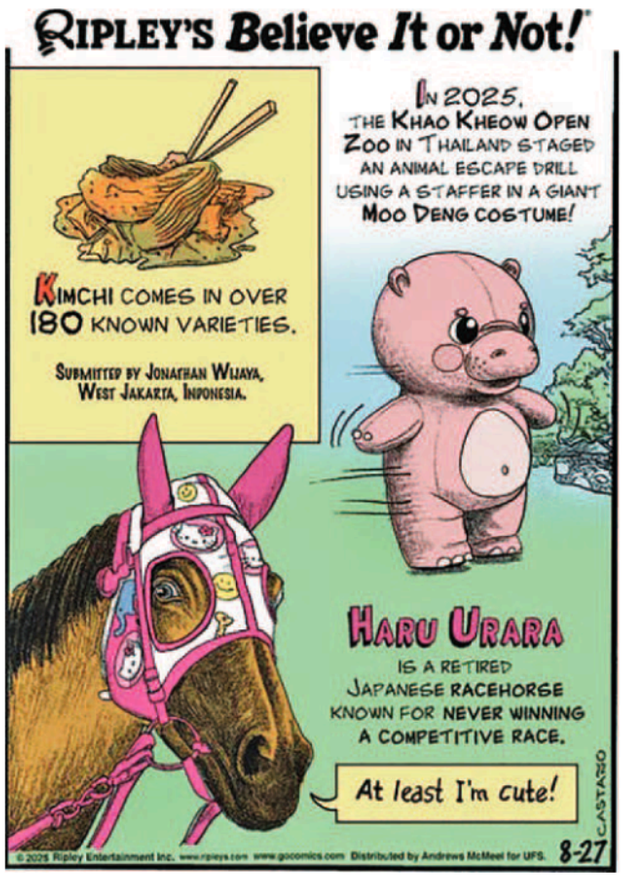
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HARU URARA
IS A RETIRED JAPANESE RACEHORSE KNOWN FOR NEVER WINNING A COMPETITIVE RACE.
At least I'm cute!
8-27